

OVERVIEW OF BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS PAROLE RELEASE DATE CALCULATIONS

Sample Term Calculation*	Term Calculation Component	Explanation of Term Calculation Component
January 1, 1995	Life Term Start Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Life Term Start Date is calculated by CDCR, and represents the date the inmate began serving his life term (following the service of any determinate terms, as applicable). If the inmate does not have any determinate terms in addition the life term, the Life Term Start Date is the date the inmate arrived at CDCR.
+ 216 Months (18 years)	Add the Base Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hearing panel selects the matrix that matches the date and conviction for the life crime, and then selects the most applicable category based on the facts of the crime. If no matrix exists, the panel selects a matrix based on: comparison to offenses of similar gravity/magnitude with respect to the threat to the public; in consideration of the inmate's sentence and any relevant Judicial Council Rules; and in consideration of circumstances in aggravation and mitigation. If there are multiple life offenses, the base term is set using the most serious of the life offenses.
- 12 months (mitigation)	Subtract Time for Mitigation / Add Time for Aggravation (when applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The default base term is the middle term. The panel shall review for factors in mitigation or aggravation, and select the lower or upper base term as appropriate, which has the effect of subtracting or adding to the base term.
+ 6 months	Add Time for Convictions or Enhancements (when applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations address when the hearing panel can add time, and how much time is suggested. Most decisions to add time are discretionary. However, the panel must add time for consecutive life sentences; CDCR cannot account for consecutive life sentences when calculating the Life Term Start Date.
- 72 months	Subtract Time for Post-Conviction Credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hearing panel awards credits, and the amount of time awarded per year served will vary based on the panel's assessment of whether the inmate has performed at a satisfactory, unsatisfactory, or exemplary level. The suggested amount of time for satisfactory performance is four months credit per year. The inmate is ineligible for credits for years in which he or she received serious 115s or 4+ 128As. CDCR does not award credits for good behavior while the inmate is serving the life term.
= 7/1/2006	Preliminary Calc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hearing panel's calculation results in a preliminary release date at the hearing.
- 426 days	Subtract Time for Pre-Prison Credits (when applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the hearing, CDCR accounts for any credits the inmate may have earned with in custody in county jail (awaiting trial, and after conviction). These pre-prison credits are subtracted from the preliminary calculation after the hearing. If the inmate served a determinate sentence prior to the start of the life term, the pre-prison credits are used to shorten the determinate term and advance the Life Term Start Date.
= 5/1/2005	Equals the Scheduled Parole Release Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After BPH and CDCR review, the inmate has a final scheduled release date. If this date occurs in the future, the inmate may be eligible for progress hearings, at which he or she will be considered for additional post-conviction credits.
MEPD of 1/1/2010	Compare to MEPD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inmate may not be released prior to reaching his or her Minimum Eligible Parole Date (PC § 3046). The MEPD governs the inmate's release in parallel to the BPH scheduled parole release date.

* Hypo: Inmate convicted of 2nd-degree murder for shooting to death spouse; committed on 11/1/93 (arrested same day); also convicted of 12-month concurrent firearm enhancement. Panel found a factor in mitigation (significant stress). No serious 115s or 128A. Programmed at a "satisfactory" level for entire incarceration. Date of hearing is October 1, 2013.